

## **From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:**

### **Should parents spray insect repellent on their children before they go to school?**

Whether children spend time outside during the school day should determine the need for applying repellent. Because most schools in the United States have air conditioning, children's exposure to mosquitoes during the school day is not likely to be high. If children will be spending time outdoors (for example, in recreational activities, walking to and from school), parents may wish to apply repellent. Mosquito repellents containing DEET, picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus, applied according to manufacturer's recommendations, are the most effective in providing long-lasting protection from mosquito bites.

### **Should children be given repellent to use during the day?**

The age and maturity of the child should be taken into account before giving repellent to children for their own use. As with many other chemicals, care should be taken that DEET or other repellents are not misused or swallowed. Parents should find out if a child will be outside during the school day, and should discuss proper use of the product with their children. Parents should consult local officials to obtain policies and procedures specific to bringing repellent to school.